

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-138 Cancelled.

139. (New) A sheath for removably covering at least part of an implantable object that carries a therapeutic substance, wherein the sheath comprises a sheath material that prevents the therapeutic substance from significantly absorbing into the sheath.
140. (New) The sheath of Claim 139 wherein the implantable object is a balloon integrated with a catheter.
141. (New) The sheath of Claims 139-140 wherein the balloon material, sheath material, or both comprise the same or different polymeric material.
142. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.
143. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is selected from hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or their mixtures.
145. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the implantable object comprises a stent.
145. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the polymeric material comprises polyolefins, polyurethanes, derivatives of cellulose, polyesters, polyamides, poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), poly(hydroxy amide ethers), polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate co-

polymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), liquid crystal polymers, poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrenes, polycarbonates, poly(vinyl alcohols), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), epoxies composed of bisphenol A based diepoxides with amine cure, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), poly(amino ethers), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, or their mixtures.

- 146. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the layer comprises a therapeutic substance contacting surface.
- 147. (New) The sheath of Claim 146 wherein the therapeutic substance contacting surface contacts a coating comprising a main-group-element oxide.
- 148. (New) The sheath of Claim 147 wherein the main-group-element oxide comprises a silicon oxide, metal oxide, or a mixture of a silicon and a metal oxide.
- 149. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the sheath material is deposited on at least a portion of the inner surface of the sheath in a layer.
- 150. (New) The sheath of Claim 149 wherein the implantable object is disposed within the sheath for transportation or storage.
- 151. (New) The sheath of Claim 141 wherein the material is selected from:

polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature;

polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is at least one of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or mixtures thereof;

at least one cellulose derivative selected from cellulose acetate having a degree of substitution greater than about 0.8, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof; sulfonated polymers; fluorinated polymers; carbide compounds; nitride compounds;

a polyolefin that is at least one of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), or mixtures thereof;

a polyester that is at least one of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), or mixtures thereof;

a polyamide that is at least one of nylon-6; nylon-6,6; nylon-6,9; nylon-6,10; aromatic nylon; or mixtures thereof; and

mixtures of a)-j)).

152. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.
153. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment wherein the non-polar soft segment is selected from hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, or their mixtures.
154. (New) The method of Claim 151 wherein the implantable object comprises a

stent.